

1 what you as a legislative body have given us, the  
2 mandates and directions you have given us. We use  
3 that time then to start implementing, plugging in.

4 One of the other things we do is what is  
5 the process and -- what is the actual process and then  
6 what are the rights of the voters. So based on that,  
7 it seems very plausible that we would be able to take  
8 the directives of this bill or any bill that you as a  
9 legislature provide and fit it into that formula and  
10 meet HAVA requirements for what we are mandated to do  
11 in terms of educating our voters.

12 SEN. DAVIS: And in the past when you've  
13 implemented a program like that, and I gather from  
14 what you're saying you've engaged in exactly this kind  
15 of --

16 MR. SHORTER: Yes, ma'am.

17 SEN. DAVIS: -- education effort before,  
18 what would the cost be in a typical election cycle for  
19 you to administer that program?

20 MR. SHORTER: Last year we -- last  
21 year -- the last election cycle was \$3 million.

22 SEN. DAVIS: It was \$3 million. And  
23 that's \$3 million educating a voter group that has for  
24 many years been operating under the same rules  
25 repeatedly. Correct?

1 MR. SHORTER: Yes, if there were -- I  
2 came to the agency during the middle of that process.  
3 If there were legislative changes during the last  
4 legislative cycle, those changes were intertwined into  
5 the voter education process. I'm not -- I'll have to  
6 go back and ask what changes were made during the last  
7 legislative session that would have affected how we  
8 rolled out this particular -- last year's initiative.

9 For instance, within all of that,  
10 there's also the Project Vote where we start -- the  
11 education process of educating voters starts also at  
12 the age of educating our school-aged kids.  
13 1.1 million people -- 1.1 million students in over 300  
14 school districts last year participated in Project  
15 Vote. So those were some extra things that we've  
16 always done even with legislation like this we will  
17 still be able to do because we have it down to a  
18 science now on how to do it, and we've been able to  
19 bring those costs down.

20 SEN. DAVIS: And now that you have it  
21 down to a science and in the last election cycle given  
22 that you have it down to a science, you've spent, you  
23 said, about \$3 million on the program. Could you  
24 anticipate a scenario where with a new voter ID  
25 requirement, one that is, well, quite lengthy in terms

1 of the amount of paper that it this takes up on the  
2 bill that's been proposed, could you anticipate given  
3 the need to educate on so many new features of a voter  
4 program that it might cost you more than \$3 million to  
5 educate Texans on that program?

6 MR. SHORTER: Senator, based on past  
7 precedent, I think it will be highly unlikely that the  
8 expenses would increase that much because many of the  
9 things that this bill is requiring us to do we're  
10 already doing it on legislation that has existed for a  
11 long time.

12 When we have a poll -- when we have the  
13 poll worker training or the training for Election  
14 Officials, it's very detailed information, and there  
15 are little tweaks that the legislature makes, and  
16 these are not 30-minute trainings. These are  
17 generally two- to three-day trainings. So it's not  
18 like if we -- if this bill were implemented the  
19 training needs would be -- or the training modules  
20 that will be developed would be any different than the  
21 modules that we are already developing because the  
22 ones we're developing now are pretty extensive.

23 SEN. DAVIS: And did the \$3 million  
24 figure that you -- that you cited a moment ago on your  
25 voter outreach program in the last election cycle, did



1 that include the costs of training poll workers on  
2 whatever tweaks came in the last legislative session?

3 MR. SHORTER: It is my understanding  
4 that it did, but, Senator, I don't mind verifying that  
5 for you to make sure that it's all-inclusive.

6 SEN. DAVIS: I would appreciate that.  
7 And if you could provide us with information in terms  
8 of exactly what that poll training looked like, the  
9 poll worker training looked like, I would appreciate  
10 that.

11 MR. SHORTER: Senator, we're very  
12 excited about our poll worker training because we have  
13 two aspects: It can be done in person, but we also  
14 have poll worker training now that can be done on  
15 line. And one of the things we're really trying to  
16 do -- and with the hope of encouraging more people to  
17 volunteer or sign up to be poll workers.

18 SEN. DAVIS: Would you anticipate that a  
19 bill suggesting the changes of this magnitude might be  
20 a more complex training program -- that might require  
21 a more complex training program than you've had to  
22 engage in in the past where the legislature may have  
23 tweaked, to use your word, the voter requirements?

24 MR. SHORTER: And maybe, Senator, using  
25 the word "tweaked" was not probably the appropriate

1 word to use. I don't see anything at this point that  
2 would cause me as the operations person within the  
3 agency to be alarmed.

4 SEN. DAVIS: Okay. Thank you. I  
5 appreciate it.

6 SEN. DUNCAN: All right. Thank you,  
7 Sen. Davis. There are no other members in the queue  
8 to ask questions. So, Mr. Shorter, you are excused.  
9 Thank you for your testimony.

10 MR. SHORTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 TESTIMONY BY DENNIS BOREL

12 SEN. DUNCAN: The Chair calls Dennis  
13 Borel. Mr. Borel, do you have written testimony?

14 MR. BOREL: (Inaudible)

15 SEN. DUNCAN: Do you have pictures for  
16 us? All right. We'll need to get those marked at the  
17 right time.

18 MR. BOREL: Good morning. My name is  
19 Dennis Borel with the Coalition of Texans with  
20 Disabilities. Yes, I am from the Texas --

21 SEN. DUNCAN: Hang on just a minute.

22 MR. BOREL: Sure.

23 SEN. DUNCAN: We need to get your timer  
24 started.

25 MR. BOREL: Okay.

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